(c) the immediate remedial measures Government have taken to ensure technical viability of the project and also to allay fears of the local people after reported cracks?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The work on the four Control Gate Sheft Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4, each 40 Mtrs, apart in the Power House Complex of Tehri HE Project Stage-I (1000 MW) is in progress. While the area around Control Gate Shaft No. 1, 2 & 4 is stable and competent rock is available at the top, the portion in front of Control Gate Shaft No. 3, has loose overburden (loose material) over the rock. The cracks were noticed only in the overburden portion at the front of Control Gate Shaft No 3, which is located away from the dam area. The cracks are due to slumping in the overburden areas a result of heavy rain.

The Technical Advisory Committere (TAC) consisting of independent renowned experts has visited the site and have categorically stated in their report that there is no such manifestation, of cracks in the dam or in the Shafts. The TAC has stated that all the four reinforced concrete lined gate shafts go into sound rock and no problems are anticipated in their construction or operation. The TAC has stated that areas in front of Shaft No. 3 has some slump in the soil portion of the slope and such soil movement is not a surprise. The slopes are to be eased and suitably treated after completion of intake works. The TAC has concluded that the permanent works have shown no distress and there is no cause of any apprehension in their safety. THDC is taking appropriate remedial measures as advised by TAC to ensure stability of this portion of hill slope. Work is planned to be undertaken to strengthen and stabilise this portion after removal of the loose overburden mass.

Award of "O Unity" to NRI

85. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleaed to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that "O Unit" of 20 MW was awarded, by NLC in favour of NRI;

(b)if so, the reasons for handing over such a convenient and cost efective project to NRI without a proven track record and financial back-up in a record time without compliance to the set procedure and justification therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that inspite of such official backing the project was not made any heading and the progress is deadslow, while the NLC is proposing to undertake another fresh project; and

(d) what steps have been taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC a public sector undertaking, has been operating a capacity of 2070 MW based on the lignite mined by it in the Neyveli area in Tamil Nadu. There was a proposal to have another unit to produce 210 MW of electricity, based on the surplus quantity of lignite available with it. The proposal was accorded techno-.economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 10.8.1988, and was approved by the Public Investment Board (PIB) on 23.3.1989. Owing to a resource crunch, NLC was unable to pursue the project and, in keeping with the liberalisation of the economic policy, decided to entrust the entire project to a private developer, Government of India conveyed its approval on 14.08.1992 to the decision of NLC pursuant to which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 31.08.1992 between NLC and as NRIs concern. M/s ST Power System Inc., USA for handing over the "Zero Unit" to be built and operated by M£ St-CMS Electric Company which was jointly promoted by M£ CMS Generation

Company, a major American Power utility. Under the MoU the 'Zero Unit' had an installed capacity of 250 MW against the initial proposal of 210 MW.

(c) and (d) The project is one of the eight fast track powr projects for which counter guarantee of the Government of India would be available. The'project has received all the necessary clearances, in-cluding techno-economic clearance of CEA and has made considerable progress. The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been signed between the promoters and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board on 20.11.1996. On 16.5.1998, Government has approved issue of counter guarantee to the project in accordance with the revised procedure for issue of counter guarantee by Government of India.

Rural Employment Schemes

86. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the target fixed and achievements made under each of the rural employment schemes in physical and financial terms during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b)whether Government are providing any incentives to the skilled rural artisans for establishing industrial units on large scale;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether traditional skilled artisans are still unemployed in rural areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The physical and financial targets and achievements under major rural employment schemes viz. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during last three years, State-wise are given in the Annexure *[See Appendix 184, Annexure No.* 9]

(b) to (e) For providing employment and rehabilitating rural artisans (including skilled rural artisans), this Ministry is implementing a scheme of Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA). Under the scheme rural artisans Below Poverty Line (BPL) are to be given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality/quantity/ marketability of their products and reduce drudgery. Artisans from different crafts except weavers, tailors, needle workers and beedi-workers are provided improved toolkits. The average cost of hand driven toolkit is Rs. 2000/- and for power driven toolkit, the average cost is Rs. 4500/-. 90% of the cost is being met as subsidy from the Government of India and remaining 10% is to be contributed by the beneficiary. Beyond this it is to be linked to loan under IRDP. At the district level DRDA is the nodal agency for implementation. The rural artisans belonging to BPL, families are also eligible for training under the TRYSEM scheme. For establishing income generating units, rural artisans can receive finance under IRDP wherein credit from bank and subsidy from Government can be available. Existence of unemployed skilled artisans can not be denied altogether. However, efforts are being made through the programme of SITRA, TRYSEM and IRDP for rehabilitating rural artisans.

सूखे की संभावना वाले क्षेत्र से संबंधित कार्यक्रम

87. **श्री अनंतराय देवशंकर दवे** : क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सूखे की संभावना वाले क्षेत्रोम से संबंधित कार्यक्रम में विभिन्न राज्यों में राज्य-वार कितने जिलों को शामिल किया गया है और इस संबंध में मौजूदा स्थिति क्या है;